

CLAIMS

1. A method for an interactive media services system to enable a user to receive media to an interactive media services client device, said client device coupled to a programmable media services server device, said method comprising the steps of:

5 implementing an interactive media guide;
 implementing said client device to present said interactive media guide to said user;
 determining whether an active session exists when said user accesses said interactive media guide.

10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

 presenting an active session screen denoting that the client device currently has an active session with said interactive media services system; and
 displaying the active media session if the client device receives a command from the user to resume session.

15 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

 displaying a main screen of said interactive media guide denoting that an active session is not present; and
 displaying a plurality of titles for said media.

20 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

 displaying a title information screen if said user makes a request to see more information on one of said plurality of titles for said media; and
 presenting said main screen of interactive media guide if said user decides to cancel from title information screen or if timeout period expires.

25 5. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

 presenting a title purchase screen if said user makes a request to purchase one of said plurality of titles for said media.

30 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

 displaying an unblock pin screen if said media of said request is blocked by said interactive media guide;
 prompting said user to enter a unblock pin value; and
 comparing said unblock pin value with a sever unblock pin value on said media services server.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
redisplaying said unblock pin screen denoting purchase pin value and sever purchase
pin value are not equivalent; and
presenting said main screen of interactive media guide if said user decides to cancel
from unblock pin screen.

8. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
displaying a purchase pin screen if said media is not blocked or if said unblock pin
value and said server unblock pin value are equivalent;
prompting said user with said purchase pin screen to enter a purchase pin value; and
comparing said purchase pin value with a server purchase pin value on said media
services server.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
redisplaying said purchase pin screen if purchase pin value and sever purchase pin
value are not equivalent; and
displaying said main screen of interactive media guide if said user decides to cancel
from purchase pin screen.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:
determining if possible for said interactive media services system to create a session
for said request if purchase pin value and sever purchase pin value equivalent.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
displaying a resources unavailable screen if not possible to create a session for said
request; and
displaying said main screen of interactive media guide subsequent to said resources
unavailable screen, said main screen being displayed after a timeout or a cancel input request
from said user.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:
displaying a "Help Screen" if possible to create said session.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:
displaying a start of a media session of said media of said request if said key value is
equivalent with server key value.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:
implementing a trick mode (rewind, fast forward, pause, etc..) function if a user
request is made for said trick mode.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:
displaying said main screen of interactive media guide if said active session has
ended.

16. A method for an interactive media services system to enable a user to receive media to an interactive media services client device, said client device coupled to a programmable media services server device, said method comprising the steps of:

implementing a memory for storing data of said client device;

implementing an interactive media guide stored within said memory of said client device; and

a processor configured to cause said client device to display said interactive media guide and said media, said processor responsive to said interactive program guide and requests of said user.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said interactive media guide is configurable to accept a plurality of commands from said user to reject a request for said media associated with a particular rating level.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said plurality of commands of are stored in said memory as rating data, and wherein upon a request of said media from said client device said rating data is compared with a server rating data for said media, and wherein acceptance of said request is based upon said comparison.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein a subsequent override sequence is initiated if said comparison is unequal in which said user is prompted to enter a pin value, said pin value is compared with a user value on said media services server, if equivalent said request is processed.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein said interactive media guide is configurable to accept a plurality of commands from said user to reject a request for said media associated with a particular theme.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said plurality of commands of are stored in said memory as theme data, and wherein upon a request of said media from said client device said theme data is compared with a server rating data for said media, and wherein acceptance of said request is based upon said comparison.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein a subsequent override sequence is initiated if said comparison is unequal in which said user is prompted to enter a pin value, said pin value is compared with a user value on said media services server, if equivalent said request is processed.

23. The method of claim 16, wherein said interactive media guide is configurable to accept a plurality of commands from said user to reject a request for said media if said request exceeds a configurable limit, said limit comprising:

a monetary amount that said user can configure by said plurality of commands for media services rendered in a given time period.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein a subsequent override sequence is initiated if said comparison is unequal in which said user is prompted to enter a pin value, said pin value is compared with a user value on said media services server, if equivalent said request is processed.

25. The method of claim 16, wherein said interactive media guide is configurable to accept a plurality of commands from said user to reject a request for said media if said request exceeds a configurable limit, said limit comprising:

a counter of requests for any type of said media that said user can configure by said plurality of commands for media services rendered in a given time period.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein a subsequent override sequence is initiated if said comparison is unequal in which said user is prompted to enter a pin value, said pin value is compared with a user value on said media services server, if equivalent said request is processed.

27. The method of claim 16, wherein said interactive media guide is configurable to accept a plurality of commands from said user to reject a request for said media if said request exceeds a configurable limit, said limit comprising:

a counter of requests for a particular type of said media that said user can configure by said plurality of commands for media services rendered in a given time period.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein a subsequent override sequence is initiated if said comparison is unequal in which said user is prompted to enter a pin value, said pin value is compared with a user value on said media services server, if equivalent said request is processed.

29. The method of claim 16, wherein said interactive media guide is configurable to accept a plurality of commands from said user to change to a desired language format for the said interactive guide as listed among possible selections given by said interactive media guide.

30. The method of claim 16, wherein said interactive media guide is configurable to accept a plurality of commands from said user to change to a desired language format for said requested media as listed among possible selections given by said interactive media guide for said requested media.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the said desired language format is achieved through an implementation involving said interactive media guide enabling said interactive media services client device to select a program identifier associated with said desired language format from a video stream of the said requested media.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the said desired language format is achieved through an implementation involving said interactive media guide enabling said client device to provide a specific video stream of said requested media associated with said desired language format.

33. An interactive media services system comprising:
a programmable media services server;
interactive media services client device, said client device coupled to said media
services server device;
an interactive media guide to be displayed to a user through said client device;
an interface to said media services server to allow a system operator to configure a
plurality of elements that dictate the functionality available to said user through said
interactive media guide.

34. The interface of claim 33, wherein said system operator sets parameters that provide
control functionality in said interactive media guide to said user for allowing said user to change
language settings.

35. The interface of claim 33, wherein said system operator sets a plurality of parameters
that provide control functionality in said interactive media guide to said user for restricting a specific
plurality of requests for a plurality of media.

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